

Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee

Member Day

April 9, 2019

Remarks for Rep. Scott Peters:

Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

Thank you for hosting “Member Day” for your colleagues like me who have important requests for the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

While you debate where to place much-needed funding, I want you to know that many programs, including ARPA-e grants, energy efficient buildings grants, carbon capture utilization and sequestration incentives, waterpower innovations, and more, are all high on my priority list, closely connected to San Diego, or both.

You no doubt have received the appropriations letters I have written and signed onto that support these programs.

During this time, however, I’d like to highlight one very important topic – where Americans can safely store spent nuclear fuel.

As you may know, the San Diego region is home to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, which is being decommissioned.

As part of that decommissioning, spent nuclear fuel is being relocated to on-site, dry cask storage.

This cannot be the final resting place for this material.

It's located on a military base, about 100 feet from the Pacific Ocean and the corrosive ocean air, miles from massive fault lines, and most alarmingly, close enough to communities to severely impact millions of Southern Californians.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has certified the storage process as safe, but that doesn't change the fact that it's in the wrong place.

San Diego is unique with its risks to the on-site storage, but many other communities have spent nuclear fuel near their homes, schools, and offices-- and shouldn't.

We need a safer storage location. In fact, we have one, but due to the lack of political will, Congress has not advanced on this solution.

That must change.

The Department of Energy needs to continue its path toward both interim storage options, and permanent storage at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

That is why I led a bipartisan letter, with Congressman Jeff Duncan, in support of the administration's budget request for funding.

This request includes \$116 million through the Department of Energy, split between \$90 million for the Nuclear Waste disposal account, \$26

million for the Defense Nuclear Waste disposal account, and \$38.5 million in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Program.

Last year, the House passed legislation for these solutions.

There is still support and the appropriations committee should fund it.

My colleagues and I strongly urge you to support this request.

It's beyond time to get something done to securely store the spent fuel

Thank you for your time and consideration.